

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 1-8 to read as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet printing apparatus for carrying out
~~the a~~ printing operation by using printing means for ejecting ink, comprising:

recovery means for recovering ~~the an~~ ink ejection state of the printing means
~~in a favorable state~~ by receiving ink from the printing means; and
ink-retaining means for absorbing and retaining the ink received in ~~the said~~
recovery means and discharged from a discharging portion thereof through a flow
passage[[:]],

wherein said recovery means and said ink-retaining means are disposed
approximately at the same height when said ink-jet printing apparatus is in ~~the posture to~~
~~be used a use orientation~~, and ~~said the~~ flow passage is formed as a sealed space except for
portions connected to ~~said the~~ discharging portion of said recovery means and to said ink-
retaining means[[:]], ~~said the~~ flow passage being provided with an absorber while
remaining maintaining a gap between walls of the flow passage and the absorber and
extending from said the discharging portion to said ink-retaining means.

2. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet printing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said ink-retaining means has comprises a container sealed except for portions to be connected to said the flow passage and communicated communicating with outer air, and an a container absorber accommodated in said container.

3. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet printing apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein a continuous space is formed between the portions to be connected to said the flow passage and communicated communicating with outer air, said air, the space passing by the extending along an outer surface of said accommodated the container absorber accommodated in the interior of said container.

4. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet printing apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein said the continuous space is connected to and contiguous to said with the gap of said the flow passage at a the portion connected to said the flow passage.

5. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet printing apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein said the continuous space is formed to be narrower narrow from the portion connected to said the flow passage to the portion communicated communicating with outer air.

6. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet printing apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein ~~said~~ the absorber disposed in ~~said~~ the flow passage is connected to ~~said~~ the container absorber accommodated in said container.

7. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet printing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the flow passage is integral with said recovery means.

8. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet printing apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein said recovery means comprises a pump for forcibly expelling ink by ~~the~~ application of a suction force to an ink-ejection portion of ~~said~~ the printing means, and ~~said~~ the flow passage is integral with a base for supporting said pump to connect a discharging port of said pump with said ink-retaining means.